



# AETC News Clips

## Randolph AFB, Texas



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### **Fine Arts Center on track at school**

Web Posted: 01/11/2006 12:00 AM CST

**Chuck McCollough**  
**Express-News Staff Writer**

Art programs at Randolph High School and Randolph Middle School will get a new, \$3.5 million home when the 2006-2007 school year starts in August. The high school and middle school programs are located on the same campus, which is part of Randolph AFB.

Work on the 18,000-square-foot fine arts center started last summer, and when it is finished the Ro-Hawk band, choir and art programs will be in good shape, said Superintendent Barbara Maddox.

"At long last our award-winning music programs will have a new facility to practice and perform. This is a project that our staff and community have been requesting for a number of years," she said. "We have completely outgrown our current facilities as more and more students have shown interest in becoming a part of our fine arts program."

The new band hall in the fine arts center will be 4½ times the size of the current band hall, said district spokesman Jeff Duffield.

The current band program shares a building with the basketball gym, the boys and girls physical education dressing rooms and the weight room, he said. Art programs are located in standard classrooms, and the choir uses a classroom with a stage at one end.

The fine arts center will have classrooms for band, choir and art plus specialty areas such as a kiln room. It also will have a courtyard area for art and a practice area for choir.

Band students will have a rehearsal hall and a percussion practice area as well as other state-of-the-art, soundproof and acoustically designed practice rooms. There also will be a uniform and instrument storage area as well as a room for instrument repair and a tech room for computer-assisted instruction, officials said.

The exterior of the facility will be masonry, with the brick designed to match that of existing buildings on campus.

The Randolph Fine Arts Center was paid for by the Department of Education. Military base school districts don't have the ability to call bond elections to pay for new construction like local school districts.

The space freed by moving the fine arts programs to the new building will be used to meet other needs at the high school-middle school campus. For instance, the current band hall area will be used by the athletic department, which already occupies most of the building. And a 7,000-square-foot expansion will be made to the athletic building.

Those changes are expected to be ready by the start of the 2006-2007 school year, Duffield said.

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### **Meeting set tonight in Kelly cleanup**

Web Posted: 01/11/2006 12:00 AM CST

#### **San Antonio Express-News**

The Air Force is holding a public meeting tonight to explain its plans for cleaning up pollution on and around the former Kelly AFB.

The meeting is scheduled from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Greater Kelly Development Authority's offices, 143 Billy Mitchell Blvd., Suite 6.

The Air Force Real Property Agency, which is overseeing cleanup at the former base, already has the systems in place temporarily but is going through the process to get them approved by the state as final measures.

The plans involve cleanup of contaminated groundwater on and off the north and east sides of the former base.

*San Antonio Express News*

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### Sheppard personnel face new training to prepare for Iraq

By Michael Hines/Times Record News  
January 9, 2006, Page 1A

Sheppard Air Force Base has added new training in recent months as airmen face more duties than many would have expected.

The deadly Iraqi attacks that left hundreds of people dead in the past week illustrates just the kind of carnage that military personnel face as the war in Iraq continues. But those attacks have really stretched the Army manpower, and Air Force personnel have been directed to help. That's meant servicemen and women coming into Sheppard have had an extra course, said Daniel Hill, non-commissioned officer in charge of training for security forces.

"The Air Force picked up a lot of the Army's missions because they're hurting for manpower," he said.

Hill is the non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the 82nd Security Forces Squadron training section. He also provides other training, such as constructing fighting positions and basic combat skills.

Personnel who deploy from Sheppard sometimes don't need to touch another weapon once they've ended basic training. Now, personnel deploying from Sheppard and other Air Force bases are required to prepare for more combat. In December 2004, the Air Education and Training Command directed security force squadrons to retrain airmen in basic combat skills, according to the Sheppard Senator. Personnel are ready for fighting situations, but some, such as maintainers and medics, aren't required to continue training on skills such as building fighting positions, convoy operations and rifle fighting.

With all deployed airmen now completing a four-hour training session before departing, they study a variety of issues ranging from field hygiene and basic combat skills to tactics and techniques. They can then test their skills in a rifle fighting field exercise and a short obstacle course.

It's about more than learning to fire a gun, Hill said.

"We show them how to use that weapon as a deterrent, how to display it, to show their presence and standard operating procedures," he said. "A lot of airmen have never done these things before."

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# AETC News Clips

## Vance AFB, Okla.



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### Former Vance commander Raaberg addresses Air Force Association banquet

CNHI News Service January 11, 2006

— By Jeff Mullin Senior Writer

The United States is winning the war in Iraq, said Brig. Gen. Douglas Raaberg, but victory will not come soon.

“What I want everybody to understand is that we’re winning,” said Raaberg, deputy director of operations for U.S. Central Command, “but that winning is slow and subtle.”

Raaberg, former wing commander at Vance Air Force Base, returned to Vance Tuesday night to speak to the local chapter of the Air Force Association.

Raaberg commanded the 71st Flying Training Wing from March 2000 until April 2002.

Since April 2004 he has worked for CENTCOM, the unified combatant command unit responsible for fighting the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as assuring U.S. security in 23 other nations.

He is based at CENTCOM headquarters at McDill AFB in Tampa, Fla., but travels to the Middle East at least once a month.

There he has seen the ongoing battle against the insurgents in Iraq, a war, he said, between the United States and al-Qaida.

“What we’re doing now is posturing for the long war,” said Raaberg.

Ultimately, Raaberg said, the war will not be won with U.S. military might, but by the Iraqis themselves.

“We recognize that fight, between the extremists and their ideology, is not something that the military can take on,” said Raaberg. “A lot of people say, ‘Why don’t you just go kill them by the thousands?’ The answer is, we’re doing that. That’s not the issue. The issue is how do you deflate the ideology from being able to recruit people to do suicide bombings.

“How do you do that in a way that is sustained and maintained over time? The real conclusion is you’ve got to get Iraq to take over Iraq. You’ve got to get the Afghanis to take over Afghanistan.”

Progress in Iraq, he said, was evident in the recent Iraqi vote deciding on the parliament and constitution, in which 11 million of the 15 million eligible voters cast ballots. The 11 million voters, Raaberg said, far outnumber the 20,000 estimated insurgents.

“Iraqis are finally fed up with this, with terrorists who have no stake in their democracy and stake in their success, zero, they are murderers,” he said.

Calls to pull all U.S. troops out of the region are unrealistic, Raaberg said, because the Iraqis are not yet capable of defending themselves.

“What we did in 2005 was a fundamental shift to, literally, helping others help themselves,” he said. “By helping them we found out they were a lot stronger when they knew they were being mentored and trained. But they also recognized they were not capable of taking over

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immediately.”

Raaberg estimated there are some quarter million Iraqi police and troops assisting in the country’s defense. But the U.S., he stresses, is in the region for the long haul.

“We will continue to fight al-Qaida,” he said. “It will be a long war, not a short war. It will be decades, not years. And we have to do our damndest to make sure they never have weapons of mass destruction in their hands.”

The violence, which since the Dec. 15 elections has killed at least 498 Iraqis and 54 U.S. troops, won’t subside soon, Raaberg said.

“The bombings are going to continue, people are going to be in harm’s way,” he said.

Raaberg said he was im-pressed with the changes he saw at Vance, including the officer’s club where he was preparing to speak, construction for which began during his tenure at the base. He said his time at Vance prepared him for his subsequent jobs as wing commander for the B-2 Stealth bombers at Whiteman AFB in Missouri, and at CENTCOM.

“I learned to be a pilot here,” he said. “I also learned that, after you leave, it also becomes the place where you learned your leadership, you learned a lot of the issues on how to be a wing commander. Going to the B-2 was actually an easy transition.”

Raaberg said he and his wife, Claudia, and family, “loved Vance Air Force Base. It was our best assignment because of the focus of the mission and the people we had.”

He praised the continuing mission of Vance and the contribution the base has made to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Vance is replenishing the combat forces that are out there,” said Raaberg. “I see the Vance graduates. They’re in the fighters, they’re in the transports, they’re in the special operations. My message to them is, just keep doing what you’re doing.”